

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 695

By Dixon

A RESOLUTION to urge the expansion of early childhood education programs in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the value of a quality education pays dividends to the individual, their community and their state for a lifetime, creating productive citizens with greater earning potential, safer communities and a progressive state; and

WHEREAS, a basic education for every young child should begin with a high quality, active learning preschool program, but too many children enter kindergarten in Tennessee without the benefits available from a quality preschool education; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Early Childhood Education Pilot Program, established in 1998, served approximately 3,000 at-risk 3- and 4-year-old children in 2002-03, which ranks Tennessee in the bottom tier, 13th, for early childhood education among the 16 member states of the Southern Regional Education Board; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to the success of this State's children, and hence its economy and the total welfare of its people, that a quality early childhood education program be available for every child and that this most important issue be addressed by this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that this General Assembly expresses its unwavering support for an increase in funding for the expansion of the early childhood education program administered by the Department of Education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby urge and encourage the Governor to include such an earmarked appropriation within the administration's general appropriations act for fiscal year 2004-2005.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Phil Bredesen, Governor of Tennessee, and to the Commissioners of Finance and Administration and Education.